(b) if so, the steps taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Nagpur Airport

†83. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Airports Authority of India have prepared a blueprint for upgradation of Nagpur Airport to international level;

(b) if so, by when this scheme would be put into action; and

(c) the reasons for non-implementation of this scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Upgradation of Nagpur Airport has been taken up for upgradation in a phased manner by Airports Authority of India. Discussion with Government of Maharashtra have been initiated for development of Nagpur airport as a national cargo and passenger hub. In the meanwhile Airports Authority of India has various upgradation works in phase I include Expansion and modification of terminal building and construction of new arrival hall for handling international operation, expansion of existing apron to create two more parking bays for B-747, B-777 and B-767 types of aircraft and construction of new apron with six parking bays for AB-321/B-737-900 class of aircraft. The above works are expected to be completed by the end of 2007. In addition, AAI has also plans to take up construction of Haj Terminal.

(c) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Airports into International Airports

84. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of airports in the country have been identified for upgradation into international airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether additional infrastructure and facilities, like construction of a new terminal building, second runway, etc. have been carried out to meet the growing passenger traffic at the Mangalore Airport, thereby meeting the requirements of an international airport;

(d) if so, whether the Centre would consider upgrading Mangalore Airport into an international; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Upgradation of an airport into International airport is considered from time to time based on various factors such as projection of requirements by airlines, availability of land, customs, immigration, plant and quarantine facilities etc. Recently Airports at Jaipur and Calicut have been declared as International airports.

(c) A new runway of dimension 2450m x 45m for operation of AB-310-300 class of aircraft has already been constructed at Mangalore airport. There are plans to construct a new integrated terminal building complex with all modern facilities for handling 500 passengers at a time. Action can be considered only when and if required additional land is handed over by the State Government of Karnataka to AAI. AAI has taken up renovation/ modification of the existing terminal building and initiated action for providing space for customs & immigration there.

(d) and (e) On completion of above works and when all relevant requirements are met, the Ministry of Civil Aviation will examine whether to upgrade Mangalore Airport to an International Airport.

Installation of Landing Instruments at Airports

85. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that each year during monsoon and winter, flight operation becomes difficult, resulting in severe disruption in schedule of almost every flight leading to chaos at the airports;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that appropriate equipment to guide the aircraft during such season is unavailable in most of the airports; and